

NEITZKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1572 NAVY nominations (2) beginning NATHAN JOHNSTON, and ending ROGER D. MUSSELMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1573 NAVY nominations (11) beginning PHILIP ARMAS, JR., and ending CHRISTOPHER D. THOMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1574 NAVY nominations (10) beginning CATHERINE O. DURHAM, and ending REBECCA A. ZORNADO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1575 NAVY nominations (13) beginning JAMES H. BURNS, and ending REBECCA S. SNYDER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1576 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JOHN M. HARDHAM, and ending MARTIN W. WADEWITZ, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1577 NAVY nominations (8) beginning PHILIP J. ABELDT, and ending MICHAEL B. VENER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

PN1578 NAVY nominations (22) beginning LAUREN P. ARCHER, and ending ALISSA G. SPEZIALE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 23, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

2016 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL CELEBRATING THE BASQUE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the first day of the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which is featuring the Basque.

Since 1967, the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage has honored cultural traditions during its annual festival and celebrated the individuals who help keep important traditions alive. The festival has featured participants from all 50 States and more than 100 countries, and this summer, the festival will showcase Basque culture in Washington, DC.

The Basque migrated to the United States from an ancient and free culture located in the Pyrenees between France and Spain. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the gold rush in Nevada and California drew the Basque out West. They became well-known for their strong work ethic and skill for business. As the western mines attracted workers from across the United States

and around the world, innovative Basques capitalized on the opportunity to raise sheep and sell sheep products to miners. During this time, the sheep industry in Nevada grew exponentially.

Following World War II, Nevada's Basque population soared, with a majority of Basques settling in northern Nevada. The Basque brought with them traditional dances in colorful costumes, music, their unique language, and cuisine that remains a hallmark in the State of Nevada. Communities throughout the State have benefited from the innovation of the Basque settlers and the traditions they and their descendants have kept alive.

Over the years, the Basque have become a part of Nevada communities, established businesses, and served our Nation as doctors, lawyers, scientists, and teachers. The sons of Basque parents, Paul and Robert Laxalt, are among those who have earned a place in Nevada history, becoming well-known for their strong Basque roots and accomplishments. Paul dedicated his life to public service by serving as the Governor of Nevada and as a U.S. Senator, and Robert was a successful writer who captured the Basque experience in the American West in books such as "Sweet Promised Land" and "The Basque Hotel."

The importance of the Basque's impact on Nevada history is exemplified by the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada's land grant university. The center maintains an extensive collection of Basque oral history and provides students the opportunity to gain expertise in Basque culture and tradition. The center, along with so many others in the State of Nevada and throughout the Nation, have worked hard to keep the rich history and spirit of Basque culture and tradition thriving in the United States.

I am pleased the Smithsonian Folklife Festival will celebrate this incredible culture for this year's festival, and I welcome the Nevadans who have traveled to Washington to participate in the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Saturday was the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Shelby County v. Holder* decision. In this case, a divided Court voted 5-4 to gut the Voting Rights Act. The Court struck down the provision of the Voting Rights Act that required certain jurisdictions with a documented history of discrimination to "preclear" any changes to their voting laws with the Department of Justice.

In the 3 years since *Shelby County*, Democrats and a small handful of Republicans have sought to restore the Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately, the majority of Republicans in Congress have obstructed efforts to reinstate ro-

bust Federal voting protections. As a result, 2016 will mark the first Presidential election without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act since this historic legislation was signed into law in 1965.

The restrictions on voting that many Americans face today can be traced back to the 2010 midterm election. After that election, in which Republicans won control of several State legislative chambers and governorships, State lawmakers across the country introduced burdensome voting laws. These laws ranged from strict voter identification requirements to cuts in early voting. At the time, the Voting Rights Act served as a backstop, preventing States covered by the preclearance requirement from implementing changes that had a discriminatory purpose or effect.

That is why the *Shelby County* decision in 2013 had an immediate impact. Released from preclearance requirements, States with discriminatory histories were free to move forward with new restrictions on voting. For example, within hours of the *Shelby County* decision, Texas State officials announced that they would immediately implement a photo ID requirement for in-person voting that Texas first tried to put in place in 2011. This burdensome voter ID law had previously been blocked by both the Department of Justice and a Federal appeals court, due to the law's harmful impact on poor and minority voters. As a result of this law going into effect, we heard disturbing stories of a 93-year-old veteran and nearly 70-year-old doctor who were turned away from the polls in Texas in 2014 because their IDs did not meet the onerous new requirements.

During my time as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights, I held a series of hearings that examined restrictive State voting laws. During these hearings, we heard over and over again that these laws have a disproportionate impact on lower-income, minority, youth, elderly, and other vulnerable voting populations.

I asked the State officials at each of my hearings whether there were any widespread instances of voter fraud to justify these laws, and they were unable to point to any examples. There have been only a handful of prosecutions over the last decade. This clearly is not a problem in need of a solution. This is clearly an effort to restrict the opportunity to vote for certain Americans.

This year, voters in 17 States will face restrictions that they have not previously experienced in a Presidential election. Eight of these States were previously covered by the preclearance provision in the Voting Rights Act.

Recent primary elections in many of these States gave voters a taste of potential problems to come in the general election. In Maricopa County, AZ, some voters were forced to endure